



**Press release
28 January 2009**

For immediate use

New General Chiropractic Council members announced

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) welcomes the Appointment Commission's announcement of the names of nine members of the new General Council.

These members will take up office on 9 February 2009 under the leadership of chiropractor Peter Dixon whose appointment as GCC Chair, agreed in principle by the Appointments Commission in November 2008, has been confirmed.

The role of the Council is to formulate and oversee the strategies necessary to fulfil the GCC's statutory responsibilities, and to make sure the organisation earns and maintains the trust of stakeholders – particularly patients, the public and the chiropractic profession.

Commenting on the announcement, Peter Dixon said: *"I'm delighted with the range of experience and knowledge of these members of the new Council. We will work as a team to uphold the public interest by implementing the GCC's statutory duties, and we will continue to develop effective working relationships with our stakeholders"*.

The new Council members are

- Alan Breen (chiropractor)
- David Byfield (chiropractor)
- Christina Cunliffe (chiropractor)
- Martin Caple
- Roger Creedon
- David Plank
- Grahame Pope
- Christopher Stephens
- Judith Worthington

Recruitment and selection of the reconstituted Council was carried out by the independent Appointments Commission. All appointments were made on merit following a fair, open and transparent recruitment and selection process.

The recruitment and selection of a further four members of Council by the Appointments Commission will be undertaken in the next few months.

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) is an independent UK-wide statutory health regulator set up to protect the public. It sets standards for chiropractors' competence, conduct and health and will take action against chiropractors who fail to meet them.

Biographies of Council members

Alan Breen (chiropractor)

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC: Education Committee; Professional Conduct Committee; and University Recognition Panels
- Professor of Musculoskeletal Health, Anglo European College of Chiropractic (AECC)
- Visiting Professor of Musculoskeletal Health, Institute of Health and Social Care, Bournemouth University
- Director of the Institute of Musculoskeletal Research and Clinical Implementation, Anglo European College of Chiropractic (AECC)
- Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Department of General Practice and Primary Care, Barts and the London NHS Trust; Queen Mary's College of Medicine and Dentistry

David Byfield (chiropractor)

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC: Education Committee; Professional Conduct Committee; and University Recognition Panels
- Principal Lecturer, Welsh Institute of Chiropractic School of Applied Sciences, University of Glamorgan
- Head, and Chiropractic Clinic Module Leader, Welsh Institute of Chiropractic, University of Glamorgan
- Practising chiropractor in private practice

Christina Cunliffe (chiropractor)

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC: Education Committee; Investigating Committee; and Chair of the Resource Management Committee
- Principal, McTimoney College of Chiropractic
- Treasurer, College of Chiropractors
- Teaching Fellow, University of Warwick Medical School
- Lecturer, McTimoney College of Chiropractic
- Visiting Lecturer, University of Oxford Medical School, and Oxford Brookes Physiotherapy Department
- Practising chiropractor in private practice

Martin Caple

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC; Chair of the Communications Advisory Group; Chair of the Joint Health and Social Care Regulators'

Public Patient Involvement Group; and a member of the Investigating Committee

- Formerly a member of the police service from which he took early retirement in 2001 with the rank of Chief Superintendent
- Independent Member and Chairman of the Standards Committees for Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority
- Patient Adviser at the University Hospitals of Leicester
- Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust

Roger Creedon

- Formerly Chief Executive (and Accounting Officer) of the Electoral Commission (retired 2004)
- Held posts in the Home Office including: Electoral Commission Project Officer; Head of Security; Director of Resources, National Criminal Intelligence Service
- Lay Member of the Information Tribunal
- Lay Member of the General Medical Council's Fitness to Practise Panel
- Lay Panellist for the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Member of the Rules and Ethics Committee of the Solicitors Regulation Authority
- Member of the Standards Committee of the Bar Standards Board
- Council Member for the charity Kentish Opera

David Plank

- Currently a freelance interim manager and consultant
- Extensive strategic and high level experience in the public sector in London Boroughs and a District Council, including a total of 12 years as Chief Executive of Watford Council and the London Borough of Enfield respectively
- Member of the General Social Care Council Registration and Conduct Committee
- Vice Chair of the Learning and Skills Council London Regional Audit Committee
- Trustee of the Peace Hospice in Watford
- Formerly Interim Deputy Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Interim Chief Executive with the national Worker's Educational Association

Grahame Pope

- Director of Undergraduate Education, School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nottingham
- Head of Division, Physiotherapy Education, University of Nottingham
- Registered physiotherapist
- External examiner, BSc Physiotherapy, University of Bournemouth
- Chair of the Allied Health Professions Federation
- Member of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy's European Common Platform Sub-Group

- Member of the European Region World Confederation Physical Therapy's Education Working-Group

Christopher Stephens

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC; Education Committee; Chair of University Recognition Panel; Chair of Health Committee
- Registered medical practitioner
- Currently Deputy Head of School (Education) & Director of Education School of Medicine, University of Southampton
- Director of Education, Southampton University
- Honorary Consultant at Southampton City Primary Care Trust
- Chris Stephens has a portfolio of qualifications in the medical and educational field, including extensive experience in strategic management and leadership. Qualifications include, amongst others, two Master degrees awarded by the Open University: Education (Lifelong Learning); and Business Administration. Chris also holds a number of fellowships, the most recent ones being a fellowship of the Chartered Management Institute, the Higher Education Academy and a Silver Clinical Excellence award for his educational work

Judith Worthington

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC; Chair of the Audit Committee; deputy Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee; GCC nominated member of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE)
- Chair of the Leicester Medical School Fitness to Practise Committee
- Chair of the General Medical Council Fitness to Practise panels
- Deputy Chair of the Investigating Committee of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
- Member of the Appointments Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Member of the Bar Standards Board Complaints Committee
- Member of the Taxation Disciplinary Board's Investigating Committee
- Lay Member of the Royal College of Surgeons Review body
- Magistrate and Court Chair, Melton and Rutland Bench
- Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Committee
- In the past 10 years Judith Worthington has held various posts with the Healthcare Commission, the Lord Chancellor's Judicial Appointments Panel, the National Clinical Assessment Authority, the General Medical Council, the British Red Cross, the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the Vale of Catmose College in Oakham

Peter Dixon, Chair (chiropractor)

A [press release](#) about Peter Dixon's appointment (in principle) as Chair of the GCC was published in November 2008

- Formerly a Council member of the GCC (Chairman)
- Formerly President, European Chiropractors' Union
- Formerly President, British Chiropractic Association
- Integral to the establishment of the College of Chiropractors

- Co-chair, World Federation of Chiropractic Task Force on the global identity of the chiropractic
- Member of World Health Organisation Working Group on developing guidelines for the undergraduate education of chiropractors worldwide
- Practising chiropractor in private practice

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Contact

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Notes to editors

The appointments to the GCC will be for three or four years from 9 February 2009 (see the table on page 5 for individual details).

Remuneration for each Council member is £300 per day.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. In accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, all those appointed are required to declare any political activity in the last five years and for this declaration to be made public.

Council member	Declared political activity in the last five years	Term	Other ministerial appointments held
Alan Breen	None	4 years	None
David Byfield	None	4 years	None
Martin Caple	None	4 years	2004 - 2009: GCC Remuneration: £275 per day From 2004: Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Trust Remuneration: £15.70 per hour
Roger Creedon	None	3 years	2006-2011: Information Tribunal Remuneration: £261 per day
Christina Cunliffe	None	4 years	None
Peter Dixon	None	4 years	None
David Plank	None	3 years	None
Grahame Pope	Canvassing on behalf of the Labour	3 years	None

	Party		
Christopher Stephens	None	4 years	None
Judith Worthington	None	4 years	<p>2000-2009 University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust Remuneration: £5690 per annum</p> <p>2004-2009 GCC Remuneration: £275 per day</p> <p>1991-2012 Leicestershire Commission for Peace Remuneration: none</p>